

December 11, 2002

To: Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke, Chair
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: David E. Janssen
Chief Administrative Officer

PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAM'S REQUEST TO HIRE RAYMOND D. ALLER, M.D., TO THE POSITION OF SENIOR PHYSICIAN, M.D., IN THE BIOTERRORISM PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE UNIT

Consistent with the Board of Supervisors' August 4, 1998 action governing management appointments, the Department of Health Services has requested authority to hire Raymond D. Aller, M.D., to a funded, vacant position of Senior Physician, M.D. in Public Health's Acute Communicable Disease Control Program, at \$12,901.58 per month or \$154,819 per year, which includes a base salary of \$138,324 (M11, Step 8), \$4,149.72 (3 percent annual Physician Additional Compensation bonus), \$7,836.00 (5.5 percent annual Board Certification bonus), and \$4,509.29 (3 percent annual Physician Specialty bonus). Additional information, including the original request from Health Services and an organizational chart, are attached for your review and consideration.

The Department indicates that Dr. Aller's expertise and accomplishments in the field of medical informatics makes him the ideal candidate for this position because the County's preparation strategies for the threat of Bioterrorism and counter terrorism activities is highly dependent on electronic surveillance and the effectiveness of the County's Health Alert System Training Education Network (HASTEN) Project. This Project consists of a secured web portal and integrated emergency call-down system for Bioterrorism preparedness to be used for two-way secured messaging and disease surveillance. As a practitioner, Dr. Aller has been in the forefront of informatics and its applications. He has established methodologies and designed information systems solutions for regional networks, which has resulted in the achievement of technical excellence.

Dr. Aller will serve as the Director of the Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Unit and function as medical advisor and supervisor for the HASTEN Project. In this capacity, he will have responsibility for coordination of all Bioterrorism (BT) surveillance and Public Health (PH) response activities within the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services' Acute Communicable Disease Control Program to further the unit's efforts in meeting the goal of preparing the County and its citizens for the threat of biological warfare. He will also have responsibility for ensuring the integration of BT surveillance and response activities within the existing infrastructure for surveillance, epidemiology and outbreak investigation.

Dr. Aller will also serve as the primary consultant to the local medical community on issues related to biological warfare; participate on various Federal and State task forces and committees on Bioterrorism; serve as local liaison to local public health, law enforcement, and emergency response agencies involved with counter terrorism activities in the Los Angeles Operational Area and will participate in the terrorism preparedness planning process.

We support the Department's request to appoint Dr. Aller to the position of Senior Physician, M.D. in Public Health Programs, at an annual salary of \$154,819. The salary requested is commensurate with the scope and responsibilities of the Senior Physician, M.D. position and with his professional background and demonstrated leadership experience. The position is 100 percent offset in FY 2002-03 by funding from the Security Action Plan approved by the Board's motion on October 9, 2001.

Please advise this office by December 26, 2002, if you would like this request placed on the agenda. If so instructed, a Board letter will be prepared and scheduled for a future Board meeting. Barring such instruction, the Director of Health Services will be instructed to proceed with the appointment at an annual salary of \$154,819.

DEJ:DL:WW
SS:JJ:kd

Attachments

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
 Director of Health Services
 Director of Personnel